

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AID-05 SIG-01 DHA-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
SAB-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 L-03 H-01 IO-13 OES-07 EPG-02 AGRE-00
ISO-00 /092 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECP:AWCOOLEY;LM
APPROVED BY ARA:FDEVINE
ARA/PAN:JBECKER
ARA/ECP:WDBURSON
ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS
ARA/CAR:ESMITH

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P 250053Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148592

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: HUMAN RIGHTS DOMINATED THE WEEK'S ARA
EVENTS BOTH AT HOME IN THE CONGRESS WHERE SEVERAL KEY
VOTES OCCURRED AND AT THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN GRENADA,
ENDING JUNE 23 AND ON WHICH WE SHALL BE DISTRIBUTING
THE US DELEGATION'S WRAP-UP REPORT. THE PANAMA CANAL
NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE AFTER A WEEK'S RECESS.
OUR PEOPLE VISITING HAVANA TO ARRANGE THE DETAILS OF
THE REOPENING OF OUR GOVERNMENT BUILDING FOUND THE
OFFICIALS THEY DEALT WITH MOST FORTHCOMING. HERE IN
WASHINGTON THE PRESIDENT IS BEING ASKED TO DECIDE
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ON THE TWIN ISSUES OF GSP BENEFITS FOR OPEC MEMBERS
AND THOSE FOR EIGHT SUGAR-PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

AND THE GUATEMALANS CLAIM TO BELIZE IS ASIMMER AGAIN.
END SUMMARY.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL

INSTITUTIONS: IN CONSIDERING THE AUTHORIZATION BILL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THE SENATE ON JUNE 14 PASSED BY A CLOSE VOTE THE ADMINISTRATION-BACKED HUMPHREY-CASE AMENDMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. THE AMENDMENT REPEALS THE HARKIN AMENDMENT AND ALLOWS MORE FLEXIBILITY IN APPLYING OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES WHEN VOTING IN THE IFI'S.

THIS BILL WHICH NOW CONTAINS CONFLICTING HUMAN RIGHTS POSITIONS WILL PROBABLY GO TO CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK. THE ADMINISTRATION'S TOP PRIORITY IS TO REMOVE THE DOLE AMENDMENT, WHICH REQUIRES A DOLLAR PER DOLLAR REDUCTION IN THE U.S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO IFI'S FOR EACH DOLLAR LENT TO VIETNAM, LAOS, OR CAMBODIA. A COMPROMISE COULD BE THE HOUSE (HARKIN-BADILLO) AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD EXTEND TO ALL THE IFI'S THE REQUIREMENT (NOW OPERATIVE ONLY IN THE IDB AND AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND) THAT THE U.S. VOTE AGAINST LOANS TO COUNTRIES ENGAGING IN A CONSISTENT PATTERN OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS.

ON JUNE 16, WE ABSTAINED, IN ISOLATION, ON TWO ARGENTINE PROJECTS IN THE WORLD BANK. A CARIBBEAN BANK DIRECTOR CHARGED THAT WE WERE POLITICIZING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE BANK, WITH INDIA AND EGYPT SECONDING THE CHARGE. THE ARGENTINE DIRECTOR ACCUSED US OF TRYING TO TURN THE BANK INTO A "HUMAN RIGHTS BANK" AND CALLED FOR A FULL FLEDGED DEBATE.

3. PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS: PANAMA'S NEGOTIATORS RETURNED TO PANAMA JUNE 17 FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS WITH GENERAL TORRIJOS. THE TALKS RESUME IN WASHINGTON JUNE 23. ISSUES UNDER DISCUSSION INCLUDE THE STRUCTURE OF THE ENTITY WHICH WILL OPERATE THE CANAL DURING THE LIFE OF THE TREATY, THE RIGHTS OF US EMPLOYEES, AND THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS WHICH PANAMA IS TO RECEIVE UNDER THE TREATY.

4. OUR ADMINISTRATIVE SURVEY TEAM, WHICH WAS IN HAVANA JUNE 12-19, FOUND THE CUBAN AUTHORITIES WILLING TO BE MOST COOPERATIVE WITH RESPECT TO FACILITATING THE NECESSARY REPAIRS TO OUR CHANCERY AND RESIDENCE AND IN MAKING AVAILABLE TO US HOUSING FOR THE MEMBERS OF OUR SOON-TO-BE OPENED INTERESTS

SECTION. THE CUBANS ARE CLEARLY INTERESTED IN

OPENING THE SECTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WE AGREED TO SET A DATE BY JUNE 30 FOR THE OPENING.
WE EXPECT THE DATE WILL BE AROUND SEPTEMBER 1.

5. GSP-OPEC EXCLUSION: THE CONTINUING DEBATE
WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION ON WHETHER TO SEEK THE
REMOVAL OF THE LANGUAGE OF THE TRADE ACT BARRING
MEMBERS OF OPEC FROM THE BENEFITS OF THE GENERALIZED
SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES FAILED TO BE RESOLVED AT THE
ECONOMIC POLICY GROUP LEVEL ON JUNE 13. A MEMO WAS
THEN SENT TO THE PRESIDENT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE,
GIVING TWO OPTIONS: 1) TO SEEK NO CHANGE IN THE
LAW; 2) TO PUBLICLY FAVOR WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR ALL
OPEC MEMBERS BUT NOT TO PRESS FOR LEGISLATION NOW.
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THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL OPTIONS.

6. SUGAR AND GSP: THE INTER-AGENCY TRADE POLICY
REVIEW GROUP WAS UNABLE TO REACH A CONSENSUS LAST
WEEK CONCERNING DESIGNATION FOR GSP BENEFITS OF
COUNTRIES WHICH FELL BELOW THE COMPETITIVE NEED
LEVEL IN 1976. THESE COUNTRIES INCLUDE ARGENTINA,
BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, GUYANA, JAMAICA AND PANAMA. A
MEMO IS BEING PREPARED FOR THE PRESIDENT WHICH WILL
PRESENT OPTIONS ON WHETHER A DESIGNATION DECISION
SHOULD BE MADE AT THE PRESENT TIME AND IF SO WHICH
COUNTRIES SHOULD BE DESIGNATED.

7. BELIZE DISPUTE: BELIZE WAS A MAJOR ITEM IN
THE SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS AT THE OASGA WITH GUATE-
MALAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA AND MEXICAN FOREIGN
SECRETARY ROEL. PRIOR TO THE GRENADA MEETINGS,
THE GUATEMALANS HAD CAUSED SOME CONSTERNATION BY
ISSUING A STRIDENT, SABER-RATTLING COMMUNIQUE,
VENTING THEIR FRUSTRATION.
THE SECRETARY URGED THE GUATEMALANS TO SHOW THE
MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE JULY 6-7
NEOGITATING SESSION WITH THE BRITISH HERE IN
WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE148592
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AWCOOLEY;LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770227-0950
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770618/aaaaapwk.tel
Line Count: 161
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 43d87e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2032250
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
TAGS: PINT, PINR, XM, XL
To: ALL POSTS USCINCSO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/43d87e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009